

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1     1. An automatic method for providing locales on a computer system comprising  
2       the following steps:
  - 3         a. establishing a set of services, said set of services specifying services  
4            required for said locale;
  - 5         b. storing with each of said set of services an attribute for identifying  
6            characteristics of said each of said set of services, said attribute  
7            including:
    - 8             i        a name which identifies a type of service;
    - 9             ii.      a value which uniquely identifies said each services among  
10            other services having said name;
  - 11       c. defining a first locale which specifies a first set of attributes of a first  
12       set of said services; and
  - 13       d. loading said first locale by retrieving said first set of services by said  
14       first set of attributes.
- 1     2. The method of claim 1 wherein said establishing of said first set of services  
2       includes building a structure which references each of said first set of  
3       services.

- 1    3.    The method of claim 2 wherein said retrieving includes maintaining a  
2       reference to one of said services in said structure and iterating through said  
3       structure in order to retrieve a subsequent one of said services.
  
- 1    4.    The method of claim 1 wherein said services include text services.
  
- 1    5.    The method of claim 1 wherein said services include input services.
  
- 1    6.    The method of claim 1 wherein said services include formatting services.
  
- 1    7.    The method of claim 1 wherein said services include presentation services.
  
- 1    8.    The method of claim 1 wherein said defining of said first locale includes  
2       storing a locale file on a non-volatile medium coupled to said computer  
3       system.
  
- 1    9.    The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of generating a locale  
2       database from said first locale file.
  
- 1    10.   The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of scanning said database  
2       in order to create a reference to certain of said services in order to retrieve  
3       said first set of services.

- 1    11. An automatic method for providing services on a computer system
- 2               comprising the following steps:
  - 3                 a. establishing a set of services providing different functionality for said
  - 4                 computer system;
  - 5                 b. storing with each of said set of services an attribute for identifying
  - 6                 characteristics of the function of each of said set of services; and
  - 7                 c. retrieving said first set of services by said first set of attributes
  - 8                 irrespective of any locales.
- 1    12. The method of claim 11 wherein said establishing of said first set of services
- 2               includes building a structure which references each of said first set of
- 3               services.
- 1    13. The method of claim 12 wherein said retrieving includes maintaining a
- 2               reference to one of said services in said structure and iterating through said
- 3               structure in order to retrieve a subsequent one of said services.
- 1    14. The method of claim 11 wherein said services include text services.
- 1    15. The method of claim 11 wherein said services include input services.
- 1    16. The method of claim 11 wherein said services include formatting services.

- 1      17.     The method of claim 11 wherein said services include presentation services.
- 1      18.     The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of scanning said  
2                database in order to create a reference to certain of said services in order to  
3                retrieve said first set of services.
- 1      19.     An apparatus for providing services on a computer system comprising:
  - 2                a.        first means for establishing a set of services providing different  
3                        functionality for said computer system;
  - 4                b.        second means for storing with each of said set of services an attribute  
5                        for identifying characteristics of the function of each of said set of  
6                        services; and
  - 7                c.        third means for retrieving said first set of services by said first set of  
8                        attributes irrespective of any locales.
- 1      20.    The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said establishing of said first set of  
2                services includes building a structure which references each of said first set  
3                of services.
- 1      21.    The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said retrieving includes maintaining a  
2                reference to one of said services in said structure and iterating through said  
3                structure in order to retrieve a subsequent one of said services.

- 1    22.    The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said services include text services.
- 1    23.    The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said services include input services.
- 1    24.    The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said services include formatting services.
- 1    25.    The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said services include presentation  
2                 services.
- 1    26.    The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said means for retrieving includes a  
2                 means for scanning said database in order to create a reference to certain of  
3                 said services in order to retrieve said first set of services.